

Town of Newton Utility Advisory Board
January 25, 2011

The regular meeting of the Newton Utility Advisory Board was held on January 25, 2011 at 7:30 pm at the Newton Municipal Building, 39 Trinity Street, Newton. Chairman Lawler called the meeting to order and the following members were present: Mr. Caffrey, Mr. Vrahnos, Ms. Unhoch and Chairman Lawler. Mr. Paul Baldwin, Water & Sewer Supervisor, Mrs. Amanda Tomasello, Utility Collector and Mr. David B. Simmons, Jr. were also in attendance. Mr. Pham and Mrs. Debra Milikin were excused.

Mr. Lawler read the Open Public Meetings Act statement and then moved to reorganization. Mr. Caffrey made a motion to postpone the reorganization of the board. The Board agreed to carry this to the February meeting. Mr. Lawler then moved to the approval of minutes from the December 21, 2010 meeting. There being no issues Ms. Unhoch made a motion to accept the minutes and was seconded by Mr. Vrahnos. The minutes were unanimously approved by an "aye" vote.

Chairman Lawler moved to New Business under request for utility customers. The first application on the agenda was for Martorana Enterprises LLC requesting water and sewer connection. Mr. Martorana and his son Greg were in attendance. Chairman Lawler asked them how much water they are requesting. Greg stated that per his engineer they are expecting 5,059 gallons per day for sanitary flow and that he will have to check with his engineer to get the expected water usage. Greg stated that the water usage will most likely depend on the tenants that come in to the building, and that they do not have any lined up at this time. Mr. Simmons stated that the most current set of plans as well as the amount of water being requested is needed. Mr. Lawler made a motion to carry this until the next meeting when the new plans and water usage from the engineer will be available and was seconded by Ms. Unhoch. Mr. Lawler called the roll: Mr. Caffrey – yes and Mr. Vrahnos – yes.

The next application on the agenda was for Tammy Arfken requesting a credit of minimum charges paid. Mr. and Mrs. Arfken were in attendance. Ms.

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Tomasello explained that the outside reader was not working for two quarters and minimum bills were sent and paid. In August the reader was replaced, therefore they received a high 4th quarter bill. Ms. Unhoch made a motion to credit the minimum charge for the two quarters in the amount of \$150.00 and was seconded by Mr. Caffrey. Mr. Lawler called the roll: Mr. Lawler – yes and Mr. Vrahnos – yes.

The next application on the agenda was for Gary and Tracey Drake disputing a high 4th quarter bill. Mrs. Tomasello explained that their first, second and third quarter bills were lower than their average and the meter was checked on December 13, 2010 and was working properly and the reading was higher than the previous reading. Mr. Caffrey made a motion to deny request and was seconded by Mr. Lawler. Mr. Lawler called the roll: Mr. Vrahnos – yes and Ms. Unhoch – yes.

The next application on the agenda was for Marek Radajewski disputing high 3rd and 4th quarter bills. Mrs. Tomasello explained that the meter was checked the reading was correct and everything is working properly. Mr. Caffrey made a motion to deny request and was seconded by Ms. Unhoch. Mr. Lawler called the roll: Mr. Lawler – yes and Mr. Vrahnos – yes.

The next application on the agenda was for Anthony Mautone disputing high 3rd and 4th quarter bills. Mrs. Tomasello explained that the Water Department had been out to the location to check for problems and found no issues. Ms. Unhoch made a motion to deny request and was seconded by Mr. Caffrey. Mr. Lawler called the roll: Mr. Lawler – yes and Mr. Vrahnos – yes.

The final application on the agenda was for Alex Oricchio disputing high 3rd and 4th quarter bills. Mrs. Tomasello explained that the outside meter had been stuck since the 2nd quarter 2004 and the tenant would not let us in to get accurate meter readings. Letters were mailed to the property owner 1st and 2nd quarter 2010. In May 2010 the Water Department was allowed inside the property and got an actual meter reading, but was not able to change the

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meter at that time. The following two quarters were estimated because the tenants would not allow us to go inside to get actual readings. On December 21, 2010 Water personnel was allowed inside the property and an actual meter reading was taken. At that time a credit in the amount of \$10,843.02 was issued for the previous two quarters that were overestimated. On January 20, 2011 the meter was changed so there should be no issues going forward. Mrs. Tomasello advised that the total amount due at this time is \$9,047.92. Ms. Unhoch made a motion to deny request and was seconded by Mr. Caffrey. Mr. Lawler called the roll: Mr. Lawler – yes and Mr. Vrahnos – yes.

Chairman Lawler moved to Old Business on the agenda. Mr. Baldwin indicated that the Water Filtration Plant and Waste Water Treatment Plant are running smoothly. Mr. Baldwin stated that the Water Treatment Plant had been iced up but was ok now and that as long as the temperature stays above ten degrees everything should be good. Mr. Baldwin stated that the lake is open for ice fishing as of two weeks prior. Ms. Tomasello stated that 72 shut off letters were mailed on January 14, 2011 to homeowners over 90 days past due and this number is down from the previous quarter when 92 letter had been mailed.

Chairman Lawler moved to the Engineer's Report. Mr. Simmons indicated that the plans for the Morris Lake Dam had been submitted. Mr. Simmons stated that he received a letter of completion from the DEP for the Merriam Avenue project. Mr. Simmons indicated that Debra Millikin is working on putting the finances together with Tom Russo and Paul Baldwin on the Merriam Avenue project and then will be going out to bid for the pipe.

There being no other business to discuss upon motion of Mr. Vrahnos and seconded by Mr. Caffrey, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Amanda Tomasello